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THE DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,
BOX 1433J, G.P.O., ADELAIDE.
TELEPHONE: 83 69



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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

EIGHTH FLOOR,
DA COSTA BUILDING,
68 GRENFELL STREET,
ADELAIDE.

RURAL PRODUCTION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1960

The statistics contained in this bulletin summarize detailed information published in Bulletin No. 10, "Livestock Statistics" and No. 11, "Cereal Statistics" recently issued from this office, and show in addition, greater detail of areas and yields of other crops, rural employment, usage of artificial fertilizers, machinery, exports and also some South Australian records associated with rural production.

In general, rural production statistics relate to years ended 31st March.

AREA AND UTILIZATION OF HOLDINGS

Although the total area of rural holdings increased by over 3 million acres in 1959/60 to 155,436,898 acres, the areas under crop, sown pasture and fallow all decreased. Area under crop decreased by 2.1% during the year, the most significant changes being a considerable reduction in area sown for hay, and an increase in area of cereals for grain (which includes area failed) to the highest level since 1940-41.

TABLE 1. - AREA AND UTILIZATION OF RURAL HOLDINGS : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Cereals for grain	3,113,279	3,129,089	3,009,385	3,278,114	3,382,348
Field Peas (grain)	34,298	30,496	37,168	33,540	26,907
Hay	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566	245,299
Green Fodder	339,161	367,115	424,508	264,848	260,621
Vineyards	59,862	57,409	57,439	56,749	56,853
Orchards	32,998	33,998	35,295	37,237	37,355
Vegetables (a)	16,968	18,785	17,909	17,723	16,273
Other Crops	49,374	43,227	33,906	39,771	32,938
Total Crops	3,971,613	3,978,913	3,906,536	4,147,548	4,058,594
Sown Pastures -					
Lucerne	248,602	294,405	326,847	288,553	341,053
Clover & other	2,599,652	3,958,426	4,022,322	3,909,530	3,275,207
Fallow Land	1,075,839	909,121	752,622	954,072	725,713
Balance of Holdings	142,069,755	140,790,603	143,036,733	143,012,212	147,036,331
Total Holdings	149,965,461	149,931,468	152,045,060	152,311,915	155,436,898

(a) Excludes areas of vegetables grown for stock fodder or seed other than potatoes grown for seed.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Persons employed in March, and the value of wages paid during the twelve months ended 31st March, in each of the last 3 years are shown in the following table. Total wages and salaries paid includes the value of keep where applicable.

TABLE 2. - RURAL EMPLOYMENT (a) : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	1958		1959		1960	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<u>Permanent Workers</u>						
Owners, Occupiers, etc.	24,839	1,718	23,329	2,192	23,022	1,473
Unpaid relatives	2,406	472	3,270	848	2,690	519
Paid employees	7,950	470	8,369	585	8,059	592
Wages paid £'000	5,263	183	5,712	224	5,629	236
<u>Temporary Workers (b)</u>						
Paid employees	16,160	3,923	17,455	4,649	17,308	4,638
Wages paid £'000	4,826	273	4,978	335	4,870	349

(a) Excludes females engaged mainly in domestic duties and other workers engaged only part time.

(b) Working full time during period of engagement.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS USED

The decrease in areas under crop and pasture in 1959/60 (as shown in Table 1) was matched by a corresponding decrease in the area fertilized during 1959 (see Table 4). The 178,447 tons of superphosphate used on crops included 12,058 tons with trace elements, while the 200,553 tons used on pastures included 26,368 tons with trace elements.

TABLE 3. - PRINCIPAL CROPS AND PASTURE MANURED : SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1959

	Area Manured	Fertilizers Used		Total per acre
		Superphosphate	Other	
	Acres	Tons	Tons	lbs.
Wheat (all purposes)	1,557,697	72,950	274	105.3
Vegetables	12,519	3,175	3,259	1,151.2
Fruit and Vines	51,984	3,758	6,065	423.3
Other Crops	2,056,446	98,564	688	108.1
TOTAL CROPS	3,678,646	178,447	10,286	114.9
Pastures	3,471,328	200,553	2,342	130.9
GRAND TOTAL	7,149,974	379,000	12,628	122.7

The area of pastures top-dressed increased every year between 1943 (704,950 acres) and 1957 (4,005,002 acres), but during the past two years has decreased to 3,471,328 acres. There has been little change in area of crops manured in recent years.

TABLE 4. - CROPS MANURED AND PASTURES TOP-DRESSED : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Unit	1956		1957		1958		1959	
		Acres	Tons	Acres	Tons	Acres	Tons	Acres	Tons
Crops manured	Acres	3,399,705		3,462,521		3,692,387		3,678,646	
Manure used	Tons	175,350		182,248		192,168		188,733	
Cropped area manured	%	85.4		88.6		89.0		90.6	
Manure per acre	lbs.	115.5		117.9		116.6		114.9	
Pastures manured	Acres	3,676,932		4,005,002		3,715,561		3,471,328	
Manure used	Tons	214,601		236,291		218,728		202,895	
Manure per acre	lbs.	130.7		132.2		131.9		130.9	

AREA AND YIELD OF CROPS

The following tables show details of areas and yields of the principal crops grown in South Australia during 1959/60 compared with previous years.

As shown in Bulletin No. 11 of 1960, "Cereal Statistics", yields of cereals and hay fell considerably in 1959/60, but still compared favourably with those of other years of abnormally low rainfall. However, the yield of field peas fell by 88.7 per cent from the 1958/59 level.

TABLE 5. - CEREALS AND HAY : AREA AND YIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Unit	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Wheat -						
Area for grain	Acres	1,609,029	1,438,289	1,331,302	1,407,413	1,549,499
Yield	Bush.	28,891,524	31,431,547	14,913,988	32,032,232	11,928,966
Yield per acre	Bush.	17.96	21.85	11.20	22.76	7.70
Barley -						
Area for grain	Acres	1,041,806	1,221,737	1,211,762	1,332,473	1,289,936
Yield	Bush.	24,597,979	34,002,876	17,551,669	37,664,492	11,857,192
Yield per acre	Bush	23.61	27.83	14.48	28.27	9.19
Oats -						
Area for grain	Acres	425,026	427,192	427,366	481,076	505,499
Yield	Bush.	7,280,340	8,314,296	3,422,525	11,992,155	2,504,497
Yield per acre	Bush.	17.13	19.47	8.01	24.93	4.95
Rye -						
Area for grain	Acres.	37,418	41,871	38,955	57,152	37,414
Yield	Bush.	193,330	251,793	152,493	446,244	125,205
Yield per acre	Bush.	5.17	6.01	3.91	7.81	3.35
Field Peas -						
Area for grain	Acres	34,298	30,496	37,168	33,540	26,907
Yield	Bush.	584,320	632,795	188,376	517,812	58,449
Yield per acre	Bush.	17.04	20.75	5.07	15.44	2.17
Hay (all Kinds) -						
Area	Acres	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566	245,299
Yield	Tons	460,821	453,270	304,094	671,527	206,413
Yield per acre	Tons	1.41	1.52	1.05	1.60	0.84

Apart from a fall of 32.5 per cent in the level of production of green peas, vegetable yields in 1959/60 did not vary greatly from those of the previous year.

TABLE 6. - VEGETABLES (a) : AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Acres		Unit	Yields	
	1958/59	1959/60		1958/59	1959/60
Beans - French	328	331	bush.	64,375	62,733
Beetroot	143	130	tons	969	1,035
Cabbage	380	382	doz.	174,594	168,956
Carrots	297	314	tons	3,788	4,044
Cauliflowers	507	506	doz.	192,330	184,491
Celery	413	232	crates	240,749	212,431
Lettuce	369	396	cases	161,654	212,412
Onions	602	641	tons	5,318	5,644
Parsnips	87	82	tons	781	738
Peas - Green	5,643	4,749	bush	342,638	231,231
Potatoes (b)	6,168	5,872	tons	50,587	48,923
Pumpkins, etc.	729	822	tons	4,303	4,700
Tomatoes	996	978	bush.	512,748	519,700
Turnips	293	252	tons	2,114	1,618
All other	768	586	-	-	-
Total	17,723	16,273	-	-	-

(a) Vegetables grown for human consumption. Excludes vegetables grown for stock fodder or seed (see also footnote (b)).

(b) Includes potatoes grown for seed.

The area under vines (bearing and non-bearing) reached a peak of 62,121 acres in 1953/54, and has declined to 56,853 acres (53,760 acres bearing and 3,093 acres non-bearing) in 1959/60. Particulars below are for bearing vines only.

TABLE 7. - VINEYARDS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Acres bearing		Unit	Yields	
	1958/59	1959/60		1958/59	1959/60
Vines -					
Wine making	40,785	40,772	tons	134,578	114,064(b)
Table use	214	223	tons	784	1,085
Drying	13,338	12,765	tons	58,989	45,436(b)
Total	54,337	53,760		194,351	160,535(b)
Produce -					
Wine (a)	-	-	gall.	25,131,598	21,020,000(b)
Currants	-	-	cwt.	90,620	64,637(b)
Sultanas	-	-	cwt.	221,400	139,029(b)
Raisins	-	-	cwt.	25,060	55,970(b)

(a) Excludes liquid gallons of spirits added to fortified wine. (b) Preliminary.

The total area of orchards has been increasing steadily in recent years, and successive records have been established in 1956/57 (33,998 acres), 1957/58 (35,295 acres) 1958/59 (37,237 acres) and 1959/60 (37,355 acres).

TABLE 8. - ORCHARDS: BEARING TREES AND YIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Bearing Trees		Unit	Yield	
	1958/59	1959/60		1958/59	1959/60
Almonds	294,984	295,844	cwt.	14,501	14,571
Apples	544,531	554,026	bush.	1,021,938	1,266,467
Apricots	363,810	357,413	bush.	714,257	698,116
Cherries	53,088	50,930	bush.	41,423	45,992
Citrus -					
Lemons, Limes	22,286	19,317	bush.	43,843	31,925
Navel Oranges	305,120	310,562	bush.	934,077	850,294
Valencia Oranges	274,825	287,909	bush.	715,469	734,744
Other Citrus	51,425	54,101	bush.	168,364	155,728
Figs	16,859	16,557	bush.	25,427	24,278
Nectarines	17,887	17,955	bush.	34,223	35,395
Olives	34,767	36,710	cwt.	18,100	8,185(a)
Peaches	259,033	282,381	bush.	655,222	688,803
Pears	153,705	157,667	bush.	294,679	430,501
Plums, Prunes	113,937	111,248	bush.	109,188	109,224

(a) Preliminary.

BEEKEEPING

The production of honey and beeswax fluctuates considerably from year to year, depending upon seasonal conditions. The average yield of honey per productive hive in 1959-60 (121.9 lb) was the highest recorded since 1946-47. Details of beekeeping are shown below:-

TABLE 9. - BEEKEEPING: HIVES AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	1955/56	1956/57(a)	1957/58(a)	1958/59(a)	1959/60(a)
Beekeepers	926	817	936	838	823
Productive Hives	62,336	74,137	56,245	56,478	59,242
Unproductive Hives	14,582	12,695	27,831	16,569	11,504
	1b.	1b.	1b.	1b.	1b.
Honey	5,114,847	8,169,504	4,150,911	5,452,852	7,220,602
Beeswax	69,606	116,305	86,488	80,173	106,211

(a) Excludes particulars for producers having less than 5 hives.

LIVESTOCK

During the year ended 31st March, 1960, sheep numbers were reduced by 10.3%, beef cattle by 20.6% and dairy cattle by 3.6%. In this period, slaughterings of sheep and lambs were the highest ever recorded.

Wool production during the year reached a new peak, but there was a considerable fall in production of milk and butter to the lowest levels since 1944/45 and 1930/31 respectively.

TABLE 10. - LIVESTOCK : NUMBERS AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Numbers at end of year	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	13,584,867	14,983,848	15,236,545	15,634,326	14,024,681
Cattle -					
Dairy Cows (a)	195,039	194,502	191,205	187,858	169,510
Other Dairy	69,264	70,982	67,593	60,567	70,093
Beef	301,752	356,093	338,443	327,643	260,052
Horses	44,470	41,049	35,678	33,290	29,931
Pigs	72,920	92,180	108,343	98,374	108,696
Poultry	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,321,730	1,856,560
<u>Lambing</u>					
Ewes mated	5,654,541	6,142,419	6,567,967	6,009,618	6,746,422
Lambs marked	4,439,656	4,909,922	5,056,130	4,571,681	5,245,213
<u>Slaughterings</u>					
Sheep	1,254,172	1,254,183	1,894,120	1,759,812	2,236,283
Lambs	1,103,396	1,074,890	1,383,696	1,385,091	1,662,942
Cattle and Calves	227,382	251,965	282,517	287,283	238,437
Pigs	132,229	123,700	175,303	179,297	171,257
<u>Production</u>	'000 lb.				
Wool Clip	158,182	175,274	168,194	170,645	180,236
Wool Production (b)	173,697	188,808	185,843	186,842	(c) 197,677
Butter	19,541	19,260	16,061	16,103	(c) 13,874
Cheese	28,297	26,787	23,510	25,088	(c) 24,380
Bacon and Ham	7,677	7,295	6,997	6,875	(c) 7,014
Milk	'000 gal.				
	90,350	89,900	80,600	82,070	(c) 79,210

(a) Includes cows "in milk" and "dry", and "springing" heifers.

(b) Includes wool exported on skins, dead and fellmongered wool.

(c) Preliminary. N.A. Not available.

MACHINERY

Numbers of principal machines on rural holdings as at March for the past five years are shown in the following table:-

TABLE 11. - MACHINERY ON RURAL HOLDINGS : SOUTH AUSTRALIA
(Number)

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Tractors - Wheeled	21,155	22,826	23,952	25,116	(a) 25,839
Crawler	3,190	3,186	3,336	3,416	(a) 3,321
Rotary Hoes	3,242	3,414	3,507	4,015	(a) 3,876
Fertilizer Distributors	6,431	6,683	6,895	7,545	7,695
Drills and Combines	17,992	18,427	18,452	19,278	19,608
Harvesters etc.	13,081	13,030	13,024	13,053	13,006
Hay Presses	801	796	689	715	700
Hay Balers	1,582	1,984	2,184	2,732	2,941
Milking Machines - No.	6,920	7,208	7,344	7,537	7,575
Units	16,090	16,740	17,206	17,777	17,920
Shearing Machines - No.	12,134	12,690	13,280	13,778	13,973
Stands	22,355	23,373	24,697	25,586	26,049

(a) Preliminary

PRODUCTION RECORDS

The 1959 drought caused a general reduction in crop yields and livestock numbers. However wool clip, wool production and number of lambs marked exceeded previous records.

TABLE 12. - RURAL INDUSTRY: RECORD PRODUCTION, LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, ETC., SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Item	Unit	Quantity	Year	Item	Unit	Quantity	Year
<u>Cereals</u>				<u>Livestock Numbers</u>			
Total yield -				Sheep	no.	15,634,326	1958-59
Wheat	bush.	48,093,102	1931-32	Beef cattle	"	356,093	1956-57
Barley	"	37,664,492	1958-59	Dairy cattle	"	268,921	1954-55
Oats	"	11,992,155	1958-59	Horses	"	283,641	1912-13
Yield/acre -				Pigs	"	190,068	1939-40
Wheat (a)	bush.	22.76	1958-59	<u>Production</u>			
Barley (a)	"	28.27	1958-59	Wool -			
Oats (a)	"	24.93	1958-59	Clip	lb.	180,235,985	1959-60
<u>Vineyards</u>				Production (b)	"	197,677,000	1959-60
Grapes	tons	215,736	1952-53	Lambs marked	no.	5,245,213	1959-60
Currants	cwt.	209,140	1943-44	Butter	lb	22,938,381	1939-40
Raisins	"	117,505	1953-54	Cheese	"	29,346,931	1954-55
Sultanas	"	333,300	1943-44	Bacon & ham	"	11,734,764	1945-46
Wine	gall.	26,399,633	1957-58	Honey	"	10,906,372	1948-49
<u>Orchards</u>				<u>Area under -</u>			
Almonds	cwt.	17,937	1949-50	Crop	acres	5,426,074	1930-31
Apples	bush.	1,750,000	1940-41	Fallow	"	2,606,623	1932-33
Apricots	"	775,532	1956-57	Sown pastures	"	4,349,169	1957-58
Oranges	"	1,759,529	1957-58				
Pears	"	402,147	1957-58				

(a) Slightly greater yields per acre were recorded from small acreages over 100 years ago.

(b) Preliminary

OVERSEA EXPORTS

The following table shows the quantities of principal rural commodities exported overseas from South Australia during the past five years. Interstate trade and oversea trade via other States is excluded.

TABLE 13. - RURAL PRODUCTS: PRINCIPAL OVERSEA EXPORTS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Commodity	Unit	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60(a)
Butter	'000 lb.	2,232	2,429	968	1,039	596
Cheese	'000 lb.	13,643	9,259	5,800	8,972	8,958
Eggs - In Shell	'000 doz.	1,902	1,357	1,301	323	-
Not in Shell	'000 lb.	4,269	2,159	1,960	278	55
Fruit, Dried - Currants	'000 lb.	8,933	5,569	8,037	8,111	5,175
Raisins	'000 lb.	22,120	19,665	22,167	22,324	14,802
Other	'000 lb.	2,037	1,322	1,010	2,344	5,321
Fresh - Apples	'000 bush.	207	249	353	222	369
Preserved, Pulpel	'000 lb.	20,419	13,826	13,099	9,543	16,710
Flour (including Semolina)	tons	72,721	87,202	56,650	54,089	60,358
Grain - Wheat	'000 bush.	15,897	20,121	14,748	14,386	11,161
Barley	'000 bush.	13,912	18,709	17,592	17,683	13,705
Oats	'000 bush.	1,529	1,845	454	2,107	18
Honey	'000 lb.	2,218	1,738	3,717	1,116	2,517
Meat (Lamb)	'000 lb.	17,240	13,471	16,732	21,475	12,181
Sheep Skins	'000 .	2,101	2,236	3,425	3,061	4,213
Wine	'000 gall.	1,103	1,571	1,401	1,671	1,683
Wool - Greasy	'000 lb.	121,913	134,434	117,256	132,347	133,393
Other	'000 lb.	10,743	11,525	11,256	12,781	13,157

(a) Preliminary

D.L.J. Aitchison